

he pursued three-dimensional, semi-quantitative explanations for the structures of molecules and, later, for the structures of atomic nuclei was the greatest of all the scientists I have known. He was supremely happy when calculating or describing the properties of chemical bonds.

Scientists work largely alone or with a few other people. Those who build industries work with large numbers of people. These prime builders, driven by their love for their work, are usually not the most well-liked, but they are often the most respected. It is their job to make our industrial world work—regardless of the personal foibles of those whom they must direct in doing this work. Their personal love for their work is the driving force that motivates them.

All of us are beneficiaries of science and technology. We live lives that are much longer and are filled with seemingly endless pleasures, experiences, and freedoms that would not be available without technology. Even the "warmers" who gathered in Kyoto to bemoan and attack the world's hydrocarbon technology dropped in by way of airplanes belching demon carbon dioxide.

Now, virtually all of our technology is under serious attack. From our lumber mills, farms, and ranches to our dams, power plants, and factories, all are under assault. Our enemies belong to a peculiar form of pagan religion. Petr Beckmann called it the "green religion." This is not a new religion. The animal, plant, and earth worship ascendant today (partially at the expense of animals, plants, and the earth, which are, on balance, actually harmed by this mania) is fundamentally the same as that which arose periodically among the ancients, as chronicled, for example, in the Old Testament.

This religion is now preached in our schools, our press, and our political institutions. It is, primarily, a religion of death. Technology, in the view of these zealots, has committed a terrible sin. It has made possible the lives of billions of human beings—human beings whom they believe to be alive at the expense of worshiped plants and animals. (The fact that technology enhances the lives of plants and animals is suppressed by the professional enviro religious agitators.)

It is the moral obligation of every American—each living and benefiting from freedom and technology; each obligated to pass these blessings on to future generations; and each entrusted with a vote in the fate of the great American experiment—to stop this mania.

Seadrift and the tens of thousands of like accomplishments must not be destroyed—at least not without a terrible fight.

SONNY BONO MEMORIAL SALTON SEA RECLAMATION ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Salton Sea is a unique resource in the Southern California desert. It was created by accident of man, and over the years it has become an attractive, if unlikely, home and resting area for migratory birds and many species of fish.

Now, nearly one hundred years after the permanent Salton Sea was created, it is a polluted mess, always increasingly salty, often smelly and noxious, and most useful as a sump for agricultural and municipal wastewater, almost none of it treated. The birds and

fish that once thrived here are now threatened every day with death and disease as the tons of salts and toxic contaminants that are constantly dumped into the Salton Sea become more and more concentrated and deadly over time. Economic development of the area has been frustrated because of conditions in and around the Salton Sea.

Congressman Sonny Bono worked very hard to bring national attention to the plight of the Salton Sea, and he will always and rightly be remembered for that effort. I agree that Congress should act quickly at the Salton Sea. We need to stabilize salinity and contaminant levels to protect the dwindling fishery resources and to reduce the threats to migratory birds, and we need to devise long-term solutions as well.

I do not, however, believe that Congress should act in haste to authorize and construct an expensive project at the Salton Sea before we know what we are doing. The legislation introduced today is well-intentioned, but I believe it could force Congress to make decisions and spend taxpayer dollars before the scientists and engineers have supplied us with the information we need to make good decisions. I am particularly concerned that we preserve the integrity of the National Environment Policy Act, and that we do not hastily commit to "solutions" at the Salton Sea that may limit our options for addressing other water and resource management problems in Southern California and elsewhere in the Lower Colorado River Basin. The problems at the Salton Sea are closely tied to many controversial water quality and water management issues in southern California and elsewhere in the Lower Colorado River Basin, and our solutions for the Salton Sea should properly be made in that broader context.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts that have been made by the Congressional Salton Sea Task Force and by the Salton Sea Authority, and I look forward to consideration of this bill in the Resources Committee.

ON ELECTRIC DEREGULATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues working on and thinking about electric deregulation ("retail wheeling") the remarks of Anthony J. Alexander, Executive Vice-President & General Counsel of Ohio Edison Company, which he delivered to members of Local 245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). There is much to be learned from the candid revelations of this leader in the electric power industry.

Contrary to what you've heard from supporters of retail wheeling, this issue isn't about rate cuts—because there's no guarantee on rates. In fact, they could go up for many Ohioans. And, in any event, from a global competitiveness standpoint, we already have electric rates that are lower than those of most industrialized countries in the world.

It's not about efficiency—we already have the most efficient and reliable system in the world. In fact, many of our energy-efficiency programs, especially for low income customers, could be lost under the new system.

And it's not about fairness—because only a few, privileged customers and suppliers may profit from retail wheeling. And, it's likely to lead to many differences in prices, which today we'd call discrimination.

Let's not be naive: This issue is all about money—and lots of it. There's a lot of money on the table—not only for those who believe that retail wheeling will allow them to negotiate more favored prices, but also for the speculators in futures, options, hedges and derivatives. Wall Street and others are driving this issue not for the sake of free markets, but to gain access to profits.

After all, this change involves one of the nation's largest, and most capital-intensive, industries as well as thousands of people, just like members of Local 245, who work hard every day to deliver high-quality service to customers.

Make no mistake about this point: For supporters of retail wheeling, it's all about them getting more . . . and quite frankly, us getting less. And when I say us, I don't just mean utility employees. I'm also talking about senior citizens, small business owners, customers on low incomes, working families—including those headed by single parents . . . in other words, the vast majority of people who probably won't have suppliers competing for their business.

Other key issues are reliability and convenience. Under the existing system, utilities are obligated to serve all customers—the unprofitable as well as the profitable. By effectively eliminating the basic obligation, the reserve margins generated by today's power plants—as well as the thousands of utility jobs associated with those margins—simply wouldn't exist. Why? Because under retail wheeling, generation that is held in reserve to assure reliability would no longer be mandated. No one would build expensive new power plants or maintain reserves or any other inventories simply to assure reliable and adequate supply.

Rather than a service, electricity would become a market-drive commodity in which price and profit are the only concerns.

Reliability is a serious issue in any deregulated industry. But considering the essential role electricity plays in every home and business, unreliable electric service is a much bigger problem than a busy signal or a canceled flight.

This is a complicated issue, because the electric business is far different from other industries that have been deregulated. At the same time, supporters of retail wheeling are trying to mask the real impact of transforming electric service into just another product for which there's no substitute—and, no other product or service just like it.

Remember, choice goes both ways—customers can choose their suppliers, and suppliers can choose their customers. If lawmakers decide that our industry must be deregulated, then they should take the time to do it right the first time—because the stakes are too high to do otherwise.

THE ECONOMY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, February 25, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Last year the nation's economy gave its best performance in a generation. The economy grew strongly and created jobs while inflation declined. The gross domestic product